

October 2026



FORE the Youth Golf Tournament Players and Volunteers

FORE the Youth Golf Tournament

The annual FORE the Youth Golf Tournament took place in late September and successfully raised over \$12,000 for the youth program! To put this achievement into perspective, the funds raised now reduce a family's cost for their child's training and camps by more than \$1,000—almost one-third of the total cost!

The organizing committee, led by Chris & Sue Collie and Bob & Louise Hoh, believed the LOW Church should strongly support the community and return the tournament to the Lake of the Woods Golf Course and Fairways Café. This change made it possible to hold the tournament on a Saturday, boosting youth participation and rekindling interest among community golfers.

The organizers believed in highlighting the tournament's true purpose by renaming it from the Fall Classic to FORE the Youth Golf Tournament. This vision came to life as the youth participated on three holes, putting for each foursome and helping the teams find the putting lines. Their presence sparked incredible interaction, with some young participants having never held a putter before. The joy and laughter reflected

From our Senior Pastor: HALLOW HIM: HAPPY FOLLOWEEN, GOD!

Dear Church Family,

October has always been one of my favorite times of the year. The air gets cooler, the leaves begin to change, pumpkins appear on porches, and before you know it, you start seeing pumpkin spice in everything: candles, coffee, pastries. I even saw an ad for pumpkin spice deodorant.



This season also fills neighborhoods with skeletons, ghosts, gravestones, witches, and all sorts of things designed to make us jump. Our culture certainly has a fascination with the spooky, but have you ever noticed that the Bible has some pretty spooky stories of its own?

A valley is filled with human bones, and suddenly the bones begin rattling and coming back together. A desperate king visits a medium in the middle of the night and suddenly finds himself speaking with the prophet Samuel, who has already died. Voices come from beyond the grave, and perhaps strangest of all, when Jesus dies on the cross, Matthew tells us that tombs break open and dead saints actually come out of their graves! You don't hear those stories in Sunday School very often! So this October, we're going to open our Bibles and explore some of Scripture's strangest passages in a new sermon series called:

HALLOW HIM: HAPPY FOLLOWEEN, GOD!

Yes, you read that correctly Folloween...because underneath the fun title is a very serious question:

Who or what are we following?

WHEN LIFE LOOKS LIKE A GRAVEYARD

On **October 11**, we begin with **"Skeletons in the Closet: The Valley of Dry Bones."** Ezekiel stands in a valley filled with very dry bones when God asks, *"Son of man, can these bones live?"* (Ezekiel 37:3). Sometimes parts of our lives feel just as hopeless... broken relationships, dried-up faith, buried dreams, or those "skeletons in the closet" we would rather forget. But Ezekiel reminds us that God can breathe new life into what seems hopeless. Where we see a graveyard, God can see the beginning of an army.

BE CAREFUL WHICH DOOR YOU KNOCK ON

On **October 18**, we explore **"Saul's Last Séance: Knocking on the Wrong Door."** Desperate for guidance, Saul seeks spiritual answers from the medium at Endor rather than turning to God. His story reminds us that we shouldn't open every spiritual door. Our culture offers plenty of places to seek guidance apart from God, but when we are frightened, confused, or uncertain, the question is: Where do we turn first?

WHEN DOOM SPEAKS

On **October 25**, we continue with **"A Voice from the Grave: When Doom Speaks."** Saul goes looking for a word from beyond the grave, and something answers. But who, or what, is really speaking? Was this truly Samuel, permitted

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1 Church Lane
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Continued from page2 Hallow Him:Happy Folloween, God!

by God to deliver one final message? Or had Saul opened a forbidden spiritual door and encountered something far more deceptive? After all, Jesus warns us that the enemy comes *"to steal, and to kill, and to destroy"* (John 10:10).

Saul's frightening encounter reminds us why God warns His people not to seek spiritual guidance apart from Him. Not every voice from the spiritual realm is the voice of God. We are called to know His Word, discern what we hear, and seek Him rather than the darkness. That contrast makes the Gospel even more powerful: the enemy speaks death and despair, but in Jesus Christ, God speaks life, hope, and redemption.

AND THEN THE DEAD WALKED

On **November 1—All Saints Day**, we conclude with **"The Day the Dead Walked: Death Loses Its Grip."** Matthew 27:51–53 tells us that when Jesus died, tombs opened and saints who had died were raised. Talk about a spooky Bible story! But these saints were not zombies to be feared they were witnesses to Christ's victory over death.

Jesus entered death, and death could not hold Him. The grave had met its match.

THE SPOOKIEST STORIES POINT TO OUR GREATEST HOPE

Yes, we're going to have some fun with these strange and spooky stories. There will be skeletons, a witch, a voice from the grave, and even the dead walking! But underneath them all is one great truth: God is greater than our past, our failures, spiritual darkness, the grave, and even death itself.

So, this October, don't come alone. Invite a friend,

neighbor, coworker, or family member to join you or invite them to worship with us online. Because this series isn't about celebrating darkness. It's about proclaiming the Light that darkness cannot overcome. It isn't about glorifying death. It's about celebrating the One who conquered it.

HALLOW HIM, FOLLOW HIM, AND HELP SOMEONE ELSE DISCOVER WHY HE IS WORTH FOLLOWING.

I'll see you on Sunday and bring somebody with you!

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known,
Pastor Adam
Senior Pastor



**LIVING WATER
COMMUNITY CLINIC**
Helping to Build a Healthier Community
Clinical | Dental | Mental | Spiritual

Annual Trees of Life Gala Fundraiser
Hope and Healing

NOVEMBER 13, 2026, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Lake of the Woods Clubhouse
Limited Seating - 120 Seats
Tickets \$125

GALA INCLUDES PROGRAM,
RECEPTION, DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Visit livingwaterclinic.life for tickets.

Board of Elders, Discovering Your Church Home

Church membership is one of the most life giving commitments a believer can make. Many of us attend faithfully, enjoy the worship, appreciate the teaching, and value the friendships we’ve formed. But a deeper blessing awaits when we move from simply attending to truly belonging. As Thom Rainer highlights in I Am a Church Member, membership is not about status—it is about stepping into joyful, covenant participation in the life of Christ’s body.

When we become members, we are saying, “This is my church family.” Membership roots us in a community where we are known, prayed for, and spiritually supported. It gives us a place to grow, to serve, and to use our gifts in ways that strengthen others. It also connects us to the church’s shared mission—standing shoulder to shoulder with brothers and sisters committed to worship, discipleship, and outreach.

Membership is encouraging because it reminds us we are not walking alone. It is uplifting because it draws us into relationships that help us flourish. It is inspiring because it calls us to something greater than ourselves: a life of love, unity, and service within the body of Christ.

If you’ve been attending and sensing God’s nudge toward deeper connection, consider taking that next step. Membership is not just an administrative decision—it is a spiritual commitment that brings joy, purpose, and belonging. We would be honored to walk with you as you take it.

Facilities Update

Camera Installation: Our security camera

project is now about 85% complete. The goal is to create a unified, campus wide system covering the church building, surrounding parking lots, the Living Water Outreach Center, and the cabins. As each area comes online, we are gaining clearer visibility and a safer environment for everyone who worships, serves, and visits our campus.

Restroom Facelift: We have finished refreshing the ladies’ and men’s restrooms in the administration hallway. This month, work begins on the restrooms located between the Gathering Place and Friendship Hall. Both will receive new flooring and fresh paint. The ladies’ restroom will also feature a custom made vanity to replace the current sinks, providing a cleaner and more welcoming space.

Water Leak Repair: If you’ve walked through the center courtyard recently, you may have noticed the deck has been removed. For several years, water has been seeping through the walls of the youth stairwell and café. That seepage has now progressed to active water intrusion.

We have engaged the same architect who designed the elevator project to develop a long-term solution. At this point, we anticipate the entire courtyard will be replaced with concrete. Once we receive the architect’s proposal, we will solicit bids from contractors. Our best estimate is that the work will be completed by the end of November.

John R Gingrich
Chairman, Board of Elders

Caregiver Support Group Starting October 8th LWOC

The new Caregivers Ministry will begin October 8 at the Living Water Outreach Center and continue each Thursday from 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Our hope is that no caregiver feels alone. This will be a place to share, listen, learn, pray, encourage one another, and find strength in God and in each other.

- Share the journey
- Share what we have learned
- Create a safe, confidential space
- Recognize the blessings
- Share Scripture and encouragement
- Hear from guest speakers

Want more information ? Contact Pastor Mike Lemay, Debbie Harris, or Judy Toler.

“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”
—2 Corinthians 1:4



Begins October 8th
Thursdays @ 3:00 p.m.
Living Water Outreach Center

For more information, contact Pastor Mike Lemay:
mike@lowchurch.org / (540) 972-9060

Calendar for church activites for the next 90 days...See lowchurch.org for latest information

October	November	December
12 - Columbus Day Office Closed	6 -7 - Christmas Bazaar	4 - Blue Ridge Corale Winter Concert
14 - Baptism Class	11 - Veterans’ Day OFFICE CLOSED	6 - Christmas Festival
16 - Movie Night JOSEPH LWOC	13 - Living Water Community Clinic Gala LOW Clubhouse	13 - Congregational Meeting - Day of Remembrance
17 - Women’s Ministry Fall Retreat	20 - Movie Night “It is a Wonderful Life” LWOC	18&19 - Christmas Cantata
18 - Baptism Sunday	26 & 27- Thanksgiving Office Closed	24th - Christmas Eve Services: 5pm, 7pm. 9pm
25 - Membership Sunday		25th - Christmas Office Closed
30&31 - Home Helps		27th - One Service Only 9:45
		28th - Office Closed

MISSION PARTNER OF THE MONTH

Route 20 Ministries: A Year of Serving Our Community



Route 20 Ministries has had an eventful and rewarding year at Lake of the Woods Church. Through the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of our church family and community partners, the church continues to find meaningful ways to serve our neighbors and share Christ's love.

Our Mechanics Ministry has been busy repairing and maintaining vehicles for individuals and families who need assistance. Reliable transportation can make a tremendous difference in a person's ability to work, attend appointments, and manage everyday responsibilities. This ministry takes place in front of the Living Water Outreach Center.

The Living Water Outreach Center, located at 32345 Constitution Highway (Route 20), provides conference room and larger meeting

space to church groups and community partners. The facility is used for monthly movies, currently featuring Sight and Sound classics, and we are planning our annual Thanksgiving Basket Ministry, providing families with food and encouragement during the holiday season. Other groups that use the facility include Al-Anon Support, Women's Wellness, LOWLINC, Lions Club, Chaplains, Grief Share, and Men's Support Group.

Next door, Living Water Community Clinic provides ongoing professional medical, dental, and counseling assistance. These services offer practical help while creating opportunities to build relationships and extend compassion throughout our community.

One of this year's highlights was Stuff the Bus, through which Lake of the Woods Church distributed more than 250 backpacks to children in primary, elementary, and middle schools. This effort helped provide students with supplies they needed to begin the school year while reminding local families that their community cares.



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Route 20 Ministries

We are grateful for every volunteer, donor, prayer partner, and community member who makes these ministries possible. What an eventful year it has been—and we look forward to all that lies ahead!



Prayer for Route 20 Ministries

Gracious God, you sent your Son among us as a servant, showing us the way of love through humble care for others. Bless Route 20 Ministries and all who serve. As hands maintain vehicles, groups gather, families are fed, the sick are healed, and children are taught about Jesus, may burdens be eased, needs be met, and neighbors be strengthened. By your Holy Spirit, use these acts of service to draw many toward the hope and abundant life of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrating 20 Years of Creativity, Community, and Kingdom Impact

Every fall, our church family enters a season filled with joy, fellowship, and shared purpose. Among the most cherished traditions is the Christmas Bazaar—an event that has blessed our congregation for two decades and continues to shine as a joyful expression of creativity, generosity, and mission. This year marks the 20th anniversary, and we look forward to celebrating this milestone together.

On Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, the church will open its doors to a festive marketplace filled with handmade crafts, baked goods, seasonal décor, and warm community. Shopping begins Friday at 3 pm; join us for a spaghetti supper in the café. Don't be late—we close at 7 pm. Saturday brings our traditional pancake breakfast, followed by our lunch menu and a full day of browsing from 9 am to 3 pm. The heart of the Bazaar reaches far beyond the displays. The proceeds directly support LOWC Youth Missions, fueling discipleship and Gospel outreach throughout the year. Because of the faithful work of



our crafters, our youth participated in the Youth Winter Missions Retreat and Kingdom Builders, where they learned to share the Gospel with elementary-age children through storytelling, songs, Scripture memory, and games.

Their training blossomed into leadership all summer—at VBS, Good News Across Sports, and at Good News Camp in Navajo, New Mexico, where our teens traveled across the country to bring hope and the message of Christ to children

in the Navajo Nation. Through these ministries, our youth reached over 200 children this year with the love of Jesus. Every handcrafted item helped make that possible.

Last year, more than 100 volunteers served during Bazaar Week, and we are praying for even more hands and hearts to join in this anniversary year. Throughout October, a manned information table will be available in the Gathering Place where you can sign up to volunteer, ask questions, and preview items. You may drop off donations throughout the week, with a final deadline of October 21.

Thank you for supporting our youth and for being part of a tradition that continues to bless children, families, and communities near and far.

Women's Ministry Update

Fall is here, and the LOW Church Women's Ministry is in full swing!

MomCo held its first meeting on September 2, 2026, and welcomed several new Moms to the group. This year's theme is "Bringing Back 90's Friendship" as we navigate the intersection of motherhood, faith, and friendship.

The Wednesday night Women's Bible Study is back in session. Led by Dawn Leighty, the group is studying the book of Galatians, entitled "Christ Alone."

The Third Thursday Gathering held its first meeting on September 17th with a special presentation on reading and understanding food labels. Each month, there will be a topical presentation, a devotional, a book recommendation, and a potluck lunch. The Thursday Gathering is held in Friendship Hall from 10:30 am – 12:00 noon.

We are excited for the debut of First Fridays: Fun, Food and Fellowship on October 2nd! November's event will be a "Friendsgiving Dessert and Recipe Exchange" from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Outreach Center on Route 20. Women of all ages are invited! If you want to bring a dessert to share, please indicate that when you register at lowchurch.org/events.

Don't miss our Fall Women's Retreat, entitled "Abiding in Christ," on Saturday, October 17, in Friendship Hall at LOW Church. You'll be blessed by this inspiring event, which includes dynamic speakers, worship, small group time, and a delicious catered lunch. The cost is \$30, and you must register at lowchurch.org/events. You can also register at the Women's Ministry table located in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.

For more Women's Ministry events, please stop by the Women's Ministry table in the Narthex or email us at womensministry@lowchurch.org.



FORE the Youth Golf Tournament

in everyone's smiles made it an unforgettable day and inspired everyone who was there.

We are deeply grateful to the 61 golfers and over 20 volunteers whose combined efforts made this event an overwhelming success. Heartfelt thanks to all the golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who gathered on such a beautiful day to honor God through charity, fellowship, and by embodying Christ's love.



Youth Putters



Charles Mincey singing God Bless America



David & Donna Blackistone spotting for golfers



Tournament Committee leaders
Chris & Sue Collie and Bob & Louise Hoh

MUSICAL NOTES: Surprising Origins of Some of Our Favorite Hymns

From Sunday School to the Sanctuary: Surprising Origins of Some of Our Favorite Hymns

When we lift our voices to sing the great hymns of our faith, we may imagine they were written by solemn theologians for grand cathedrals. However, some were actually written for a smaller audience: children.

During the 19th century, pastors and teachers realized that the best way to teach theology to young minds was through song. Over time, these pieces proved so powerful that adult congregations adopted them for their own. Here are the origins of three hymns we sing today.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say was written by Horatius Bonar after he noticed his Sunday school students were bored by the complex, metrical Psalms that were all that was sung in the Scottish church at the time. He wrote simple hymns in leaflets, structured as conversations. Adults were initially offended and rejected them as beneath their dignity, even storming out of church in protest. Eventually recognized as a masterpiece, it was adopted worldwide.

All Things Bright and Beautiful, written by Cecil Frances Alexander, was her creative way to teach children the Apostles' Creed. Published in "Hymns for Little Children", it remains a world-famous celebration of Creation.

Pentecost is otherwise known as Whitsunday (White Sunday) because baptismal candidates would march to the rivers or fonts dressed in white robes. Sabine Baring-Gould needed a song for his Sunday school kids to march to. He found nothing suitable for their walking pace, so he penned these words in a single night

That these hymns survive into our adulthood tells us something beautiful: the truths we teach our kids are not simple ideas that we outgrow. They are the foundations that sustain us our entire lives.

2Timothy 2:3-4 Ephesians 6:11-12 1Timothy 6:12

Genesis 1:31 PS 104:24-25 Romans 1:20

Matthew 11:28 John 4:13-14 John 8:12

Donna Chernowetz.



October Birthdays

Charlotte Baker	Gregory Kutz
Susan Barnes	Rodney Lackey
Patty Bell	Michelle Lyons
Michael Brancato	Rebecca Malamphy
Krista Breuninger	Theda Massie
Eric Chinault	Bob McManis
Barbara Crawford	Linda Merrell
Lana Crist	Kathy Merritt
Thomas DeSocio	Angela Neely
Dave Dietz	Thomas Phillips
Lynn Duley	Selena Rave
John Dullnig	Robin Riffe
Kelly Dyer	Debbie Risseuw
Mary Fulton	Hugh Risseuw
Leslie Gage	Diane Rivenburg
John Gingrich	Suzanne Roberts
Olin Greene	Sally Shope
Dale Gunn	Eugene Slagle
Tim Hall	Gail Smith
Judith Hall	Chelsea Suche
Lori Harbick	Danielle Turcola
Gloria Heath	Gerald Whitmore
William Jones	
Sharon Killian	
Roberta Klooster	
Hannah Knights	
Laurie Knights	

October Anniversaries

Marc & Helga Birdsong
 James & Belinda Divelbiss
 Steve & Linda Futato
 John & Vicki Gingrich
 Mark & Ana Lyon
 Kevin & Kara Paxton
 Thomas & Cheryl Phillips
 Andrew & Ruth Rayne
 Joe & Sandy Roth
 Robert & Sally Shope
 Martin & Tina Sweet



Please pray for members of our church family who are ill, recovering, homebound, or grieving:

Heather Austin	Silvana Babikow
Janet Bocook	Laurel Buongiavanni
Lindsay Cole	Millie Davis
Nancy Doseff	Susan Dyer
John Eckman	Steve Gaines
Betty Herron	Andres Idrovo
Olivia Knights	Herbert McKittrick
Vera Moody	Lee Moore
Ann Nadwodny	Tom & Lois Northam
Barbara Rakes	Selena Rave
John & Ann Sawyer	Shelly Seymour

Normajean Solebello
 Bobbie Stone
 Beth Sundberg
 Darrell Turner
 Newt Wilson

Martha Somerville
 Greg Soukenik
 Don Trent
 Pat Watterworth

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Elder of Communications
email: elder.comm@lowc.org